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THE SEPARATE TABLIT

Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a mix of Latin and Cyrillic characters, possibly representing a name or a short phrase. The text is written on a light blue background.

THE ALPHABET.

A. I. U. E. O. Am. K. Kh. G. Ch. Chh. J.
 ॠ ॡ ॢ ॣ । ॥ ० १ २ ३ ४ ५ ६ ७

Ñ. T. D. Dh. N. T. Th. D. Dh. N. P. Ph. B.
 ४ ५ ६ ७ ८ ९ १० ११ १२ १३ १४ १५

Bh. M. Y. R. L. V. S. Sh. S. H. St.
 १६ १७ १८ १९ २० २१ २२ २३ २४ २५ २६

The vowel a is inherent in the consonants; the other vowels, anuswara, and r, are made by little strokes. I is drawn downwards crossing some line of the consonant, as ॠ ki, ॡ ti, ॢ si, ॣ sti; U turns towards the left below, as । su, ॥ ku, ० hu; E is made by a stroke above, as ॥ se, ० se; O passes downwards, but does not cross any line: as ॠ bho, ॡ yo, ॢ so; Anuswara is made by two strokes at foot: as ॣ kan, ॣ san; R is a stroke towards the right: as ॣ tra, ॣ sra. Sometimes two such marks are found together: as ॣ pri, ॣ pur, ॣ kram.

ART. XV.—*On the Kapur-di-Giri Rock Inscription.* By
MR. E. NORRIS.

[Read March 1, 1845.]

FOR above a month past, I had been trying at intervals, but without success, to decypher the Kapur-di-Giri Rock Inscriptions, which were brought to Europe by Mr. Masson ; all of which had been copied by sight, and of which some also were fac-similes impressed on calico, in the manner which Mr. Masson has described. About ten days ago, on examining the copy of that portion which forms the back or south side of the rock, I remarked a group of letters of frequent occurrence, representing, according to the value attached to such of the characters as correspond with those on the coins of Bactria, the word *piyasa* ; I found that the group was repeated frequently, and that in every case it was preceded by three letters which I could not identify. I had not the resource of a cloth impression, as Mr. Masson had found it impracticable to apply the calico to that part of the rock ; but on comparing all the different examples together, I judged that the same group was always intended : in some cases the first letter took the form of *di*, as read on the coins ; the second I read *r* ; and the third *n* ; this would make the word *Diranapiyasa*. I supposed this might be a name in the genitive case ; and the supposition was corroborated by finding the same word, but without the final *s*, at the head of the separate tablet, which formed apparently the title of the inscription, and of which I had made a pretty fair transcript, by collating three calico impressions with the copy made by Mr. Masson on paper. A further investigation, and an examination of the list of names in Turnour's *Mahawanso*, convinced me that the word was *Devanampiya*. I immediately communicated this discovery to Mr. Dowson, to whom I had before given a corrected copy of the first separate tablet ; and that gentleman, who unites a knowledge of Sanskrit to an acquaintance with the discoveries of Prinsep in Indian antiquities, proceeded to compare this tablet with the Girnar proclamation of *Devanampiya Piyadasi*. On doing this, he soon found that the inscription on the tablet coincided nearly with the seventh division of the Girnar monument. He lost no time in informing me of this coincidence ; we proceeded to a closer examination, and found no greater difference between the two than might be expected between two different versions of the same original document.

I confess, that instead of feeling pleasure at having made this discovery, I was at first a little disappointed at finding that we had

probably nothing more than a third edition of the Girnar monument, of which a second had been found at Dhauli, in Cuttack, and published with that of Girnar by Mr. Prinsep. But I remembered that the two versions already known had been found to differ in some particulars, and that the one now discovered might contain some new matter. I remembered also, that the complete acquaintance with the forms of the alphabet which so extensive a document must afford, would enable us to read with certainty the legends on the Bactrian coins, many of which still remain doubtful; and that with the alphabet, we should in all probability recover the language of the legends. I therefore proceeded to examine the remaining inscriptions, and I was not disappointed in the result. I began upon the portion which forms the front of the rock given in Mr. Masson's drawing, and proceeded, letter by letter, through the whole of it, collating every word with the Girnar inscription. I found the two documents to be similar, but not exactly alike; half the words are absolutely identical; but a considerable proportion of the remainder are effaced, or too indistinct to be recognised, though I have no doubt that I shall recover some by examining the impressed cloth more closely.¹ This portion contains all the Girnar tablets from the first to the eleventh, with the exception of the seventh, which was cut on the separate tablet before adverted to, and was the one of which a very imperfect copy was furnished to Mr. Prinsep. The second tablet is shorter than that of Girnar; the sixth has much additional matter; and the ninth differs considerably.

I then proceeded to the sheet containing the inscription on the back of the rock, which led me to the discovery, and I found that it contained, in substance, the three remaining divisions of the Girnar inscription, but at greater length. Here I was chiefly desirous of verifying the portion of the thirteenth tablet, which mentions the names of three western kings. In this I was deprived of the resource of a cloth impression, which had helped me to the clearing up of many words in the other portions; but very luckily the line which I wanted was, with one exception, perfectly legible: it confirmed Mr. Prinsep's conjecture as to the names of *Antiochus* and *Antigonus*, added a fourth name to those of the three kings, and dispelled all doubts as to the meaning of the word *Chaptaro*, which he thought signified Egypt. Mr. Prinsep read the lines thus: "And the Greek king besides, by whom the Kings of Egypt, Ptolemaios, and Gongakenos,

¹ I have since received Mr. Masson's first attempts at taking impressions of the rock, and expect to derive much assistance from them; several portions illegible in the second impression, are very clear on the detached pieces, though these are on the whole the most defective.

(or Antigonus), and Magas, &c.," and conjectured that the Greek King was *Antiochus*. The Kapur-di-Giri inscription reads:—"The Greek King Antiochus also, and the four Kings, Ptolemy, Antigonus, Magas, and Alexander."¹ I have not yet had an opportunity of looking into the historical statements of those dark and troubled times; and cannot now guess at the monarch called Alexander, unless it be Alexander, the son of Pyrrhus, king of Epirus, who would I fear be too early; in all probability, the connexion between the East and Europe was not sufficiently frequent to maintain in India any very accurate acquaintance with the changes that were then so rapidly taking place in the West.

The Society has for some years been in possession of an accurate fac-simile of the Girnar inscription, which was probably taken after the lamented Mr. Prinsep wrote his account. I have examined the passage in question in this fac-simile, and I find there that the stone is broken off in the very part which probably did contain the name of Alexander; and that the name of Antigonus is quite distinct upon it, and could not be read *Gongakena*, as it was on the copy read by Mr. Prinsep; though he very ingeniously conjectured the true reading.

The alphabet in which the Kapur-di-Giri inscription is written, is in one respect more complete than that of the Girnar Rock. It contains three very distinct sibilants, and will thus often furnish a clue to the true reading of a word, which is wanting in the others. I think I find the cerebral letters also; but am not quite sure.² It is, however, unfortunately, less distinct, several letters being so like each other as to be easily confounded; resembling in this the old Cufic character, in which, according to Marcel, many words of three letters only, may be read above forty different ways, each having a real sense. It appears, also, to be sometimes deficient in vowels, though this arises without doubt from careless engraving, and perhaps still more frequently from the imperfect state of the impression; when fully legible, each vowel is expressed by a little oblique line in various positions; but no distinction is made between long and short vowels. The engraving on the rock is carelessly executed throughout; and in the very beginning, the name of the king is written *Priyasi*, instead of *Priyadarsi*. The language is like that of the Girnar inscription, but perhaps nearer to Sanskrit than that. The name

¹ The name of Alexander is not quite positive; it looks as if preceded by a consonant,—perhaps *h*, making Halexander. Ptolemy, if correctly copied, is written Turamaro, and not Turamayo, as in the Girnar tablet; but the second *r* is uncertain.

² I have since distinctly found four of them.

Piyadasi is generally made Priyadarsi, always where fully legible ; dhamma is written dharma ; and the same forms occur in other cases. It will be understood that I have had no time for any critical remarks, even if my acquaintance with Sanskrit were sufficient to enable me to make any. My task will be to furnish an alphabet, and so far as I can, a legible text, which will be better read by others.

The portion given in the plate is the seventh edict, which forms a separate tablet on the rock, and is all that could be got ready for printing in the present Number. It is reduced on a scale of one inch to four, from a copy compiled by collating three impressions on cloth and three on paper, made by Mr. Masson. All these impressions are incomplete ; but each contains some portion wanting in the others, and a letter or two has been obtained from the imperfect copy furnished to Mr. James Prinsep, which has been obligingly communicated to me by H. T. Prinsep, Esq. With all these aids, this part may be considered almost a fac-simile. I give what appears to me the reading in Roman characters, parallel with the readings of the corresponding portions of the Girnar and Dhauti inscriptions : the first from the copy taken by Mr. Westergaard, and published in the number of the Bombay Branch Society's Journal for April, 1843, collated with the fac-simile in this Society's possession, and the second as read in the fac-simile published by Mr. Prinsep ; the letters in Italio are doubtful.

Girnar. — Devánampiyō Piyadasi rájá savata ichhati savo

Dhauti. — Devánampiyō Piyedansi lája sachata ichhati ***

Kapur-di-Giri. } Devanampriyo Priya[dar]śi rajo savatra ichhati sava

G. — pásandā vascyu savo te sayamancha bhāvasudhinchā

D. — hānandā vaso * ti savo paga sachhaman bhāvusudhicha

K. — pashandā vascyu savo ito sayaman bhavaśudhicha

G. — ichhati janotu uchāvacha chhando uchāvacha rago te

D. — ichhanti munisā uchavala chhandā uchāvūcha lágá to

K. — ichhanti janocha uchavacha chhando uchavacha rago to

G. — savam vakāsanti ekadesam cha kasanti vipá[su]le tu pi

D. — sanvam vá ekadasa * * chati vidalá pi ná

K. — savam va ekadeśam vapi kashanti vipule pi cha

G.—*dāno* *yasa* *nāsti* *sayame* *bhāvasudhi* *tiva* *katam* *fiatā*
D.—*dāno* *asa* *natki* *dhayamo* *māvasudhicha*
K.—*dane* *yasa* *nasti* *sayama* *bhavaśudhi* *kita* *fiata*

G.—*vadaḍhabhatitā* *cha* *nichā* *bādham.*
D.— *niche* *bauḍham.*
K.—*niva* *bhatita* *niche* *padham.*

The alphabet given in the plate is not perfect, some letters in the large inscription still remaining doubtful; the single complete impression taken by Mr. Masson, and the damaged state of the rock, render that part much less legible than the small inscription; and some letters, or combinations of letters, have not yet been identified. The unmanageable size of the copy renders examination difficult; but it is being reduced for the lithographer, and the remaining letters will in all probability be identified before the appearance of the next Number, in which the whole of the Inscription will appear.
